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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4198  
BT  
UNCLAS COLOMBO 2134

DEPT PASS EC COLLECTIVE

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EEC

SUBJ: SENATOR PERCY'S RESPONSE TO EC ACTION RE CORN GLUTEN FEED

REF: STATE 94667

1. REFTEL MESSAGE WAS PASSED TO SENATOR PERCY APRIL 9. HE WANTS TO TAKE STRONG ACTION TO COUNTER EC COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL, ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) PERCY WILL MEET ALL COLOMBO-BASED EC CHIEFS OF MISSION IN COLOMBO AT 0900 HRS APRIL 12, TO CONVEY HIS CONCERN.

(B) DEPT'S ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED IN PASSING THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE, IN MOST APPROPRIATE FORM AND THROUGH MOST APPROPRIATE CHANNELS, IMMEDIATELY TO: (A) ALL EC AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON (PERCY HAS ASKED THAT LETTERS BE ADDRESSED ON FIRST NAME BASIS); (B) CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT; (C) PRIME MINISTER THATCHER; AND (D) THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER (WHOM PERCY MET RECENTLY):

QUOTE: I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE DECISION OF THE EC COMMISSION, ON APRIL 6, 1982, TO SEEK A MANDATE FROM THE EC COUNCIL TO NEGOTIATE A TARIFF QUOTA ON CORN GLUTEN FEED IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES. I UNDERSTAND THE EC COUNCIL PLANS TO TAKE UP THE PROPOSAL ON APRIL 20.

THIS ACTION COULD TOUCH OFF A WAVE OF PROTECTIONISM IN THE UNITED STATES, WITH DISASTROUS IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S.-EUROPEAN TRADE RELATIONS. I HAVE PERSONALLY FOUGHT FOR MANY YEARS, WITHIN THE U.S. CONGRESS, AGAINST PROTECTIONIST MEASURES IN THE UNITED STATES. THE PROPOSED TARIFF QUOTA WILL STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THOSE IN MY COUNTRY WHO WOULD TURN THE U.S. ECONOMY INWARD, AND REVERSE THE PROGRESS THAT WE HAVE MADE SO FAR TOWARDS A MORE LIBERAL WORLD TRADING SYSTEM.

I AM MEETING WITH EC CHIEFS OF MISSION ON APRIL 12 IN COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE PERSONALLY. SINCERELY YOURS, CHARLES PERCY. UNQUOTE.

2. SENATOR PERCY HAS ASKED THAT HIS OFFICE (BILL CANIS) BE INFORMED OF THE ABOVE ACTION.  
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END OF MESSAGE

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